



October 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 17, 2022

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Zoom hybrid meeting

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Ioana Bociu (Academic Community Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large Representative; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community At Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Ray Kirk (At Large Alternate), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Cathy Lear (Clallam County), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Alternate), Lyn Muench (District 2), Arnold Schauten (Development Community), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Representative Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (City of Port Angeles), Jeffrey Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Coleman Byrnes (Citizen), Ken Gilbertson (Citizen), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Jason Morgan (Northwest Straits Foundation), Jeanne Neal (Citizen), Alisa Taylor (CC MRC Intern), Guy ____ (Citizen)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Rebecca Mahan added an item at the end of the meeting regarding the Clallam Conservation District.

Public Comment / Approval of August and September Minutes

There were no public comments. Mike Doherty moved to approve the August and September CC MRC Minutes; Lyn Muench seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: Jefferson and Clallam Derelict Crab Pot Project

Marine Project Manager for the Northwest Straits Foundation Jason Morgan presented on results from the Derelict Crab Pot Project in Dungeness and Port Townsend Bays. Project goals included clearing at least 5200 acres of marine debris, halting continued mortality of Dungeness crab in derelict crab pots, documenting the impacts of derelict pots, conducting outreach in the local communities, and reducing the number of crab pots lost annually. Jason displayed maps of the study areas. Outreach efforts involved in-person and virtual workshops, dockside education, social media, distribution of educational materials, and press releases. Over 2700 individuals were reached through material distribution alone. The highlight to come out of the outreach was that seasoned local crabbers gave presentations to their own communities. Unfortunately, the in-person outreach was put on hold during the pandemic. Over three consecutive years of the project from 2019 to 2021, 752 pots and 17,920 pounds of debris were removed, 94% of which was returned, donated, or recycled; 5644 acres were cleared; and 11,280 Dungeness crab were saved annually. In Dungeness Bay, 259 pots were removed; in Port Townsend, 487

pots were removed. The project focused on recreational loss, which accounts for about 80% of total loss. Results saw a 31% increase in lost sport pots in Port Townsend Bay, and a 43% decrease in Dungeness Bay. Jason discussed some reasons why Port Townsend was not a success when Dungeness Bay was: Port Townsend is more of a marine destination for tourists, whereas Dungeness Bay is mostly fished by local crabbers. The outreach focused on reaching local crabbers, so it may not have reached the tourist community in Port Townsend. Conclusions and recommendations included continuing to provide in-person and virtual crabber workshops; distributing educational materials; expanding outreach to the tourism community, possibly only in Port Townsend; expanding outreach to commercial crabbing fleets, which make up about 45% of pot loss; boater education; and specific gear malfunction education. The two main reasons for gear loss are due to vessel strike and gear malfunction. The group discussed expanding the project area.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update from the last NWSC meeting. Highlights from the meeting included a Northwest Straits Initiative reauthorization bill introduced in the senate, SB-4903; a presentation from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about monitoring sea birds and mammals in partnership with other agencies, data from which can be accessed at https://us06st1.zoom.us/web_client/8csbj6s/html/externalLinkPage.html?ref=https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/wp/MarineSeabird/index.html; an update on European green crab trapping, which has seen a surge in the west end of Clallam County, around Bellingham, and upper Puget Sound; and the formation of a work group to prioritize derelict vessel removal. The next meeting will be held via Zoom. Rebecca Mahan added that she spoke to Emily Grason, program manager of Washington Sea Grant's Crab Team, who suggested talking with the tribes about capacity. Allyce Miller invited interested volunteers to help with trapping efforts on the Pysht and Dungeness Rivers. Robert Knapp welcomed volunteers to help in the Sequim and Discovery Bays.

CC MRC Updates

Collaborative Workshop in Padilla Bay on September 16th from 11am to 4pm
Rebecca Mahan distributed some of the handouts from the workshop.

Project Updates

Olympia Oysters

A proposal to use some of the congressionally directed spending funds for developing habitat areas was submitted by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Chris Burns suggested a presentation on population surveys at a future CC MRC meeting; *Rebecca Mahan will contact Chris about scheduling a presentation. Rebecca added that the Tribe was working on getting permits together for beach nourishment; the project has a 1/1/23 start date.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer reported that sampling days for next week were being coordinated based on tides. Ann Stafford raised a concern over toxic runoff once the fall rains start. Chris Burns mentioned spotting large schools of smelt on the west side of Cline Spit. Rebecca Mahan directed people to a post from Coastal Watershed Institute.

Education/Outreach

Rebecca Mahan announced that the last of the coasters had been distributed at Crab Fest. Arnold Schauten and Nancy Stephanz still have a few left to distribute. The group discussed whether to order more, possibly of different species. Rebecca mentioned the development of a fellowship and education

materials using the congressionally directed spending funds. *Tim Cochnauer requested an update at next month's meeting on project ideas.

Biotoxin Sampling

Bob Vreeland was not present for an update.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys

Ed Bowlby reported that the seasonal monitoring was completed in September. The data is being entered in the WDFW database. There were twenty new volunteers in Clallam County this year.

Other Projects

Alan Clark suggested a kelp bed project.

Additional Updates

Rebecca Mahan brought up the upcoming Orca Week that is being headed up by the Clallam Conservation District; the CC MRC has been invited to participate in a beach cleanup as part of the event and needs to respond about when they might be available. The group discussed the difficulty in finding a beach and date in such a short time frame and agreed to plan for next year instead. Rebecca announced that she would be going on vacation from 10/27/22 – 11/7/22.

Good of the Order

Mike Doherty announced the upcoming Sea Grant advisory group meeting on 10/19/22 and 10/20/22; for more information, see: [Washington Sea Grant – It's the water, and a lot more.](#) He sent the agenda to Rebecca for distribution; there will be presentations on the 20th, which will be open to the public. He also announced the annual Oil Spill Task Force meeting on 11/2/22, which will be virtual and free to attend.

Public Comments

Ken Gilbertson said he enjoyed the presentation on derelict crab pots.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:43 PM.

Action Items:

***Rebecca Mahan will contact Chris Burns about scheduling a presentation on Olympia oysters.**

***Tim Cochnauer requested an update on projects for congressionally directed spending funds at next month's meeting on project ideas.**